



New England Agricultural Statistics Service

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United States Department of Agriculture

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A special "THANK YOU" goes to New England producers and agri-businesses who have helped us by completing surveys via mail, telephone, or personal interviews. This issue contains the results of monthly and quarterly surveys.

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POTATOES: Maine's 2003 potato production was finalized at 17 million cwt (hundredweight), fractionally above the 2002 output, and securing the State's rank as eighth largest producer of fall potatoes in the Nation. Growers harvested 65,500 acres in 2003, an increase of 1,500 acres from the previous year. Cool, wet weather conditions prevailed during May and June. Potatoes were only 50 percent planted by the end of May, compared with 70 percent normally planted by that time, and emergence was slow due to cool soil temperatures. Dry conditions followed in July, keeping disease outbreaks in check, however, insect activity was high. Two weeks of heavy rains in early August left standing water in the rows and resulted in acreage left unharvested and diminished tuber quality at some locations. Harvest ranged from one to two weeks behind schedule through mid-September. Potato yields averaged 260 cwt per acre in 2003, compared with 265 cwt per acre averaged in the previous year.

Losses were high for the 2003 potato crop due to potential blight problems in storage and the Nationwide lack of a market. Potatoes lost from shrink and dumping totaled 2.4 million cwt in 2003, 14 percent of production, and the largest shrink and loss recorded in the State since 1994. To avoid the potential disaster of disease spread from the dumping of unmarketable potatoes, NRCS (USDA's Natural Resource Conservation Service) and the Maine Potato Board were able to provide some compensation for potatoes disposed of in an environmentally sound manner.

With sales just over \$87 million, Maine ranked ninth in the Nation based on the value of 2003 fall potato sales. The price received for Maine grown potatoes averaged \$6.05 per cwt, down \$1.00 per cwt from a year earlier, but above the National fall potato average of \$5.23 per cwt.

Potato farmers in Massachusetts and Rhode Island also battled poor planting and harvesting conditions during the 2003 growing season. Massachusetts growers left 300 acres unharvested in 2003. Potato yields in 2003 were above average in the two southern New England States, averaging 265 cwt per acre in Massachusetts and 285 cwt per acre in Rhode Island, however, quality was off due to excessive moisture at harvest.

Total United States 2003 potato production is estimated at 458 million cwt, less than one percent below the estimate made in the Annual Crop Summary in January and down fractionally from the 2002 crop. Harvested area, at 1.25 million acres, decreased one percent from a year ago. The average yield of 367 cwt per acre is up five cwt from 2002 and nine cwt above the average yield from the 2001 crop. By season, winter production decreased four percent, spring rose nine percent, summer went up five percent, and fall fell one percent from the previous year.

Fall potatoes are finalized at 411 million cwt for 2003, down one percent from the 2002 crop. Area harvested in 2003 is estimated at 1.09 million

acres, down one percent from a year earlier. The average yield, at 376 cwt per acre, is up two cwt from a year earlier. Final production of fall potatoes is virtually unchanged from the Annual Crop Summary in January.

Value of all potato sold in 2003 is estimated at \$2.46 billion, down 13 percent from the previous year. The average price, at \$5.89 per cwt, went down \$0.78 from a year earlier. Sales from the 2003 potato crop totaled 417 million cwt, down one percent from 2002. Sales accounted for 91 percent of 2003 production. Non sales accounted for 40.8 million cwt, 12 percent above the previous year. Over the past five years, 91 percent of the potatoes grown have been sold. The other nine percent were either lost (shrinkage and loss) or used on farms where grown (seed, home use, and livestock feed).

Processors used 257 million cwt of raw potatoes from the 2003 crop, down two percent from a year earlier. Table stock sales totaled 135 million cwt, three percent above the previous year. Seed sales of 22.4 million cwt are down seven percent. Sales for livestock feed, at 2.01 million cwt, are down 34 percent from a year earlier.

Potatoes used for chips and shoestrings totaled 52.8 million cwt in 2003, up two percent from the previous year. Frozen french fries and other frozen products utilized 150 million cwt of raw potatoes, down two percent. Potatoes used for dehydrating totaled 48.4 million cwt, a decrease of six percent. Canning use, at 4.81 million cwt, fell one percent. Starch, flour, and other products were made from 879,000 cwt of potatoes, 16 percent below the previous year.

Shrinkage and loss is estimated at 35.3 million cwt for 2003, up 14 percent from 2002. Potatoes used for livestock feed on farms where grown and home use totaled 1.54 million cwt, four percent above the previous season. Growers kept 4.00 million cwt for seed on their own farms, down three percent from a year earlier.

MILK PRODUCTION: Milk production in **Vermont** during August 2004 totaled 217 million pounds, an increase of less than one percent from August 2003. There were an estimated 145,000 milk cows on Vermont farms during August, unchanged from the previous month, and a decrease of 2,000 head from the previous year. Milk production per cow during August averaged 1,495 pounds, an increase of 25 pounds per cow from August 2003.

LAYER AND EGG PRODUCTION: Connecticut and Maine **layer** inventories in August 2004 averaged 5.4 million birds, a decrease of 23 percent from the combined total in August 2003. Maine is the leading producer of eggs in New England, with an output of 70 million eggs during August 2004. Connecticut layers produced 67 million eggs from all layers during the same month.

The total number of layers in the **United States** during August 2004 averaged 342 million, up 2.3 percent from a year earlier. United States egg production totaled 7.52 billion eggs during August 2004, an increase of two percent from a year earlier.

FALL POTATOES: Acreage, Yield, and Production, 2002 - 2003

State	Area Planted		Area Harvested		Yield per Acre		Production	
	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003
	1,000 Acres				Cwt		1,000 Cwt	
Maine	64.5	66.0	64.0	65.5	265	260	16,960	17,030
Massachusetts	3.3	3.0	3.2	2.7	255	265	816	716
Rhode Island	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.6	235	285	118	171
United States Fall Crop	1,134.1	1,106.0	1,105.2	1,090.9	374	376	413,581	410,588
United States All Seasons	1,299.6	1,272.6	1,265.9	1,248.6	362	367	458,171	457,814

SOURCE: **Potatoes**, 3:00 p.m., September 23, 2004, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

FALL POTATOES: Production, Disposition, Price, and Value, 2003

State	Production	Total Used for Seed ^{1/}	Disposition			Price per Cwt	Value of	
			On Farm Where Grown		Sold		Production	Sales
			Seed, Feed, Home Use	Shrink and Loss				
			1,000 Cwt			Dollars	1,000 Dollars	
Maine	17,030	1,245	215	2,430	14,385	6.05	103,032	87,029
Massachusetts	716	56	5	16	695	6.00	4,296	4,170
Rhode Island	171	11	--	12	159	7.00	1,197	1,113
United States Fall Crop	410,588	23,249	5,254	33,579	371,755	5.23	2,149,570	1,943,986
United States All Seasons	457,814	26,360	5,541	35,296	416,977	5.89	2,685,822	2,457,640

^{1/} Seed used to plant 2003 crop acreage.SOURCE: **Potatoes**, 3:00 p.m., September 23, 2004, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.FALL POTATOES: Stocks Held By Growers, Local Dealers, and Processors, 15 Fall States 2003 Crop ^{1/}

State	December 1 2003	January 1 2004	February 1 2004	March 1 2004	April 1 2004	May 1 2004	June 1 2004
	1,000 Cwt	1,000 Cwt	1,000 Cwt	1,000 Cwt	1,000 Cwt	1,000 Cwt	1,000 Cwt
California	2,700	2,100	1,600	1,300	1,000	700	
Colorado	17,500	15,300	12,600	10,700	7,500	4,300	2,600
Idaho	86,000	76,500	67,000	58,000	46,000	33,000	19,500
Maine	13,500	12,100	10,500	8,900	6,500	4,100	2,300
Michigan	9,200	7,700	6,200	5,100	3,200	1,500	
Minnesota	14,000	12,400	11,100	9,600	7,600	5,500	3,500
Montana	3,100	3,000	2,900	2,800	2,300	1,000	
Nebraska	6,500	5,600	4,600				
New York	2,700	1,600	1,100	700	300		
North Dakota	19,400	17,300	15,000	13,000	11,200	8,300	5,000
Ohio	300	190	130				
Oregon	18,000	15,800	13,500	11,000	8,400	5,500	2,900
Pennsylvania	1,900	1,500	1,100	700	400		
Washington	51,000	44,000	38,000	29,500	21,500	15,000	7,000
Wisconsin	22,100	18,500	14,900	11,200	7,600	4,200	1,500
Other ^{2/}				3,780	2,610	1,900	1,720
Total 15 States	267,900	233,590	200,230	166,280	126,110	85,000	46,020

^{1/} Revised.^{2/} Missing stocks combined into "Other States" to avoid disclosure of individual operations.SOURCE: **Potatoes**, 3:00 p.m., September 23, 2004, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

MONTHLY MILK: Number of Cows and Production, August 2004 with Comparisons

State	Milk Cows ^{1/}			Production per Cow			Production		
	August 2003	July 2004	August 2004	August 2003	July 2004	August 2004	August 2003	July 2004	August 2004
	1,000 Head			Pounds			Million Pounds		
Vermont	147	145	145	1,470	1,525	1,495	216	221	217
New York	671	656	654	1,475	1,520	1,500	990	997	981
Pennsylvania	571	559	560	1,480	1,510	1,475	845	844	826
United States ^{2/}	7,771	7,759	7,766	1,571	1,616	1,595	12,207	12,541	12,387

^{1/} Average number for the month, including dry cows.

^{2/} United States includes only 20 major States: AZ, CA, FL, ID, IL, IN, IA, KY, MI, MN, MO, NM, NY, OH, PA, TX, VT, VA, WA, and WI.

SOURCE: **Milk Production**, 3:00 p.m., September 17, 2004, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

VERMONT MILK: Prices Received, 1999 - 2004

Year	Prices Received ^{1/} by Farmers for Milk Sold												
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual Average
	Dollars Per Cwt												
1999	18.20	16.60	16.50	13.90	13.90	14.10	14.50	14.90	16.20	16.30	16.30	13.90	15.40
2000	13.40	13.40	13.50	13.40	13.50	13.80	13.50	13.80	14.00	14.00	14.30	14.60	13.80
2001	13.70	14.30	15.00	15.40	16.20	16.80	17.00	17.30	17.90	16.40	15.80	14.10	15.80
2002	14.20	13.80	13.30	13.10	12.70	12.10	11.60	11.70	12.00	12.50	12.50	12.40	12.70
2003	12.30	11.90	11.50	11.40	11.50	11.50	12.10	13.40	15.00	15.80	15.50	14.80	13.00
2004 ^{2/}	13.90	14.20	15.60	17.50	19.70	19.50	17.40	16.00					^{3/}

^{1/} Before deductions for hauling. Includes quality, quantity, and other premiums. Excludes hauling subsidies.

^{2/} Most recent monthly price is a preliminary mid-month forecast.

^{3/} 2004 Annual average price will be available in May 2005.

SOURCE: **Agricultural Prices**, 3:00 p.m., August 31, 2004, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

MONTHLY DAIRY PRODUCTS: New England Production, July 2004 with Comparisons

Product	July 2003	June 2004	July 2004	July 2004 as percent of:	
				July 2003	June 2004
	1,000 Pounds			Percent	
Butter	2,368	3,415	2,094	89	61
American Type Cheese ^{1/}	5,835	4,457	5,516	95	95
Mozzarella Cheese	6,696	5,647	5,686	85	101
Other Italian Cheese ^{2/}	490	961	968	198	101
Cottage Cheese ^{3/}	688	643	667	97	104
	1,000 Gallons			Percent	
Ice Cream, Hard	9,897	8,079	7,211	73	89
Low Fat Ice Cream, Hard	707	508	1,156	164	228
Milk Sherbet, Hard	186	311	263	141	85

^{1/} American Type Cheese includes cheddars, Colby, Monterey and Jack.

^{2/} Includes all Italian cheese except Mozzarella.

^{3/} Creamed and lowfat.

SOURCE of NATIONAL PRODUCTION: **Dairy Products**, 3:00 p.m., September 3, 2004, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

MONTHLY CHICKENS: Layers and Egg Production, August, 2003 - 2004

State	Table Egg Layers in Flocks 30,000 and Above		All Layers ^{1/}		Eggs per 100 for All Layers ^{1/}		Egg Production from All Layers ^{1/}	
	August 2003	August 2004	August 2003	August 2004	August 2003	August 2004	August 2003	August 2004
	1,000 Birds				Number		Million Eggs	
Connecticut	2,829	2,641	2,891	2,684	2,352	2,496	68	67
Maine	4,172	2,756	4,224	2,808	2,344	2,493	99	70
United States	270,424	277,423	334,332	342,039	2,203	2,197	7,367	7,515

^{1/} Includes all layers and eggs produced in both table egg and hatching egg flocks regardless of size.

SOURCE: **Chickens and Eggs**, 3:00 p.m., September 21, 2004, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

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